Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 AID-20 DRC-01 COA-02

DLOS-06 EB-11 OMB-01 /173 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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UNCLAS BOGOTA 9845

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: BOGOTA PRESS REACTION TO FONMIN VAZQUEZ' MEETING WITH

THE SECRETARY.

CINCSO FOR POLAD.

- 1. BOGOTA DAILY PAPERS GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE, ON DEC. 1, TO THE NOV. 30 MEETING BETWEEN FONMIN VAZQUEZ AND THE SECRETARY. EL TIEMPO' (LIBERAL) CARRIED THE HEADLINE "VAZQUEZ OPENS NEW DIALOGUE WITH KISSINGER" AND IN THE WIRE SERVICE (AP) STORY REPORTED VAZQUEZ AS SAYING THAT CONCRETE DECISIONS AND VERY POSITIVE RESULTS COULD COME OUT OF THE FEB. MEETING IN MEXICO. THE 'TIEMPO' ACCOUNT ALSO STATED THAT THE MEETING GAVE NEW FORCE THE THE "CALVANI FORMULA", CALLING FOR GROUPS OF THREE LATIN MINISTERS TO DISCUSS THE VARIOUS AGENDA POINTS AT THE MEXICO MEETING. VAZQUEZ IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT IS WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO WAIT ON OAS CHARTER REFORM TO MAKE THE NECESSARY REVISIONS IN HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS.
- 2. 'EL SIGLO (CONSERVATIVE) HEADLINED "THE DIALOGUE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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KISSINGER WILL HAVE A POSITIVE RESULT." THE 'SIGLO' STORY

REFLECTED VAZQUEZ' OPTIMISM REGARDING THE MEETING IN MEXICO AND REPORTED THAT HE LEFT WITH THE SECRETARY AN AGENDA FOR THE MEXICAN MEETING. IN A SEPARATE ACCOUNT CREDITED TO ARY MOLEON OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 'EL SIGLO' PRINTED A LIST OF THE POINTS THAT THE LATIN MINISTER PLAN TO DISCUSS IN MEXICO. THE MOLEON ACCOUNT IS ERRONEOUS IN THAT IT INCLUDES AS ITEM #8, THE QUESTION OF CUBA.

- 3. ON DECEMBER 2 'EL ESPECTADOR' (LIBERAL) AND 'LA REPUBLICA' (CONSERVATIVE) BOTH CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM VOA REPORTER MAURICIO GOLDCHAIN'S INTERVIEW WITH VAZQUEZ. THE STORIES DESCRIBED VAZQUEZ AS VIEWING THE CURRENT SERIES OF MEETINGS AS REALISTICALLY BASED AN HAVING A POTENTIAL FOR POSITIVE RESULTS. VAZQUEZ IS ALSO REPORTED AS SAYING THAT, IN REGARD TO THE LAW OF THE SEA, THERE EXISTED POSSIBILITIES FOR A COMMON LATIN AMERICAN POSITION THAT POSSIBLY, BUT NOT CERTAINLY, COULD BE VERY CLOSE TO THE US POSITION REGARDING NEW ASPECTS OF THIS QUESTION.
- 4. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE MEETING HAS, TO DATE, BEEN LIGHT. 'EL TIEMPO' ON NOVEMBER 20, CARRIED AND EDITORIAL "ON U S INDI-FFERENCE" WHICH SAID THAT THE VAZQUEZ-KISSINGER MEETING WOULD NOT EVEN BE REPORTED IN THE U.S. PRESS. THE EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT THE US WAS NOT REALLY CONCERNED WITH LATIN AMERICA AND ONLY TOOK NOTICE OF "THE HARDSHIP FACED BY DEMOCRACY" IN THE REGION AND OF "EVENTS THAT MIGHT UPSET OUR PEOPLES' LIVES". THE EDI-TORIAL CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CURRENT SERIES OF MEETINGS MAY BE USEFUL. 'EL TIEMPO', ON DECEMBER 2, REPRINTED FORMER PRESIDENT ALBERTO LLERAS' VISION MAGAZINE EDITORIAL DISCUSSING PAST EFFORTS AT IMPROVING LATIN-U S RELATIONS AND DESCRIBING THE PITFALLS FACING THE CURRENT EFFORTS, BEFORE REFLECTING THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER. WITH SCANT FAMILIARITY WITH LATIN AFFAIRS MAY BE THE ONE WHO MOST CONTRIBUTES TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE AREA'S PROBLEMS. WHITE

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